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The Kenyon Collegian

ESTABLISHED 1856

October 18, 2018

Vol. CXLVI, No.8

Former SMAs create new group after losing confidentiality

DEVON MUSGRAVE-JOHNSON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Oct. 8, Talia Light Rake '20 sent a statement through student email titled "An Open Letter from the Former SMAs." The letter, which also appeared on *The Kenyon Thrill* the same day, detailed "the loss of two core tenets" of the Sexual Misconduct Advisor (SMA) program and announced the conception of a new group: the Sexual Respect Peer Alliance (SRPA).

"We do not want survivors to be scared into silence due to new policies regarding confidentiality," the letter said. "Therefore many SMAs have disassociated from The Cox Health and Counseling Center's

“I get concerned for students trying to take on some things that they're not equipped to handle.

Director of the Health and Counseling Center Chris Smith

SMA Program. In response, some former SMAs have created a new support organization: Sexual Respect Peer Alliance."

Just a day before the letter was released to the public, 16 of the 17 SMAs informed Director of the Health and Counseling Center Chris Smith that they would be quitting the program in response to the new confidentiality practices implemented in the SMA program. The other

SMA resigned as well, according to Smith, but not because they agreed with the formation of the SRPA.

"I'm sad," Smith said. "But I respect their individual rights and autonomy."

The departure comes in the wake

of changes to the SMA program that included the discontinuation of the 24-hour hotline and the termination of their ability to act as a confidential resource for students. Beginning this year, SMAs were required to file reports to the Title IX office that would include the names of the students they spoke to. Before this change, they reported their statistics while maintaining the student's anonymity.

The change came as a result of the Department of Education's Handbook for Campus Safety and Security reporting which defines "members of a sexual assault response team (SART) or other sexual assault advocates" as meeting the criteria of "campus safety authorities" or CSAs. According to the handbook, "under the Clery Act, a crime is 'reported' when it is brought to the attention of a campus security authority, the institution's police department or campus safety office [...]. If a campus security authority receives a report, he or she must include it as a crime report."

Based on this wording as stated in Section 4-3 of the handbook,

SMAs would fall into the category of mandated reporter, which means that the group could no longer have legal confidentiality and that the school could be held liable for information relayed to the SMAs.

"We felt these changes fundamentally altered the mission from peer

support to peer education," SPRA wrote in an email to the *Collegian*. "While peer education is important, we recognize that there is a great need for peer support on this campus. We felt that the SMA title which was once used to empower students began to encumber us." [▶ page 2](#)



The SRPA logo. | SEXUAL RESPECT PEER ALLIANCE

College raises \$24 million during campaign's public launch

MATT MANDEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After launching the public phase of the capital campaign "Our Path Forward" last week, the College has raised another \$24 million, bringing the total raised to date to \$224 million, according to President Sean Decatur.

The campaign's kickoff weekend was the biggest in College history.

"Typically when an institution goes public, it is halfway to its goal. Kenyon is nearly 75 percent to our goal, and that's extraordinary," Associate Vice President for Alumni and Parent Engagement Scott Baker '94 said. "It speaks to the passion that alumni and parents have for Kenyon."

"This is one of the cases that when we talk about 'in perpetuity,' that [an endowment] is something that can impact students over the course of centuries and is a pretty remarkable thing for a donor to be able to do to have that kind of impact," Decatur said, citing the first endowment which was given in the 12th century at Oxford University and is still in operation.

An endowment fund for a college or university is a sum of money that the institution invests. The yearly earnings from that investment are then used for the annual operating budget, according to Decatur. Use of the endowment is restricted to items "defined as important to the function of the College," he said. Donors can restrict their contributions fur-

ther, earmarking a certain amount to go to a specific area of the College, such as financial aid.

The College typically draws about five percent from the endowment each year to support operations, according to Decatur.

The Board of Trustees received a report during its fall meeting this past weekend that the earnings from endowment were between nine and 10 percent last year, a return which is higher than usual, according to Decatur. The College is drawing about five percent from the endowment;

the remaining earnings will help to grow the endowment, account for inflation and prepare for a down year.

Assuming that the College meets its \$300 million goal in 2021, it would be able to draw about \$15 million annually to support the operating budget. This is an improvement, especially considering that for years Kenyon's endowment has been notoriously low. According to a Feb. 2014 *Collegian* article, the endowment stood at \$206.8 million in 2014.

On Oct. 12 recipients of endowed funds dined with their re-

spective donors. The dinner emphasized support for financial aid and scholarships. Among the featured speakers were Alexa Yoo '21 and Melzetta Moody '05, who described the importance of financial aid in their lives.

"[Moody's] description of what the financial aid and scholarship meant to her and her ability to come to Kenyon, how it's had a ripple effect to her family, and what she's been able to do to support her sisters to go to college and really change the fortunes of her

family going forward," Decatur said. "I'm not sure there was a dry eye in the house when Mozzetta Moody was speaking. It was a very moving experience."

The following evening, the College held a dinner in celebration of the campaign's progress at the Kenyon Athletic Center. Just before his closing remarks to cap-off the weekend, Decatur announced that a long-time member of the Board of Trustees who was seated next to him had just committed an additional \$10 million to the College. [▶ page 3](#)



Students and alumni eat lunch at the downtown block party on Middle Path, Saturday, Oct. 13. | ERYN POWELL



Chamber Singers sing at Gala Dinner. | COURTESY OF OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT



Campaign co-chairs Jim Parker '81 P'10 and Rose Brintlinger Fealy '84 address the gala. | COURTESY OF OFFICE OF ALUMNI AND PARENT ENGAGEMENT

ODEI plans a busy October for LGBTQ+ History Month

BETÜL AYDIN
NEWS EDITOR

Offices and student organizations from across campus have come together to organize events in celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month. The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) has planned several lectures, workshops and activities throughout October.

On Oct. 4 Sherry Zane, associate director of the women's gender and sexuality studies program at University of Connecticut, kicked off the series of events with a presentation titled "Surveilling Sex: FDR and the Section A Crusades, 1919-1923," where she talked about how gender identity and sexuality shaped the national security state in World War I. She also recounted how, as she researched this topic, she encountered disapproval and difficulties in accessing information. A director of archives, for example, was reluctant to give Zane literature and kept asking her questions about her research.

"This surveillance I was under in the archive while I'm studying this, made me think about the importance of history," she said during the lecture. "How it's written, who writes it, what stories we tell, what are the official stories, what archives do we use, how is it remembered and how difficult it is to disrupt these official narratives."

This event was followed by a National Coming Out Day lecture by Alex Shanks the following Wednesday. Shanks is a project and field director for Equality Ohio, a nonprofit organization that advocates for fair treatment for all Ohioans regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

"We were specifically trying to make sure we were partnering with local and state-wide LGBTQ+ organizations, and so we were really excited to have Equality Ohio on campus for the first time," Assistant Director of ODEI Timothy Bussey said.

During the lecture, Shanks shared personal anecdotes about coming out and his experience as a transgender man in Ohio.

"I thought it was really empowering," Ceci Rodriguez '22 said. "I think there's something so powerful in hearing other people's stories, especially me getting a new perspective because I'm bisexual but cis, so I love hearing especially the stories of trans people because it's something that I can't personally relate to ... and it expands my understanding."

Later in the month, ODEI will also sponsor students, including co-managers of Unity House James Lituchy '19 and Grace Harris '20, attending Equitas Health's Transforming Care Conference on Oct. 18 and 19 at The Ohio State University. Bussey hopes the event will serve as a professional development exercise



Sherry Zane presents her research on gender identity. | CHUZHU ZHONG

and provide more knowledge about LGBTQ+ health that students can bring back to campus.

There will be several more events as part of the ODEI programming, as well as activities planned by student organizations. Unity House, for example, will host an event titled "Cupcakes and Condoms" on Oct. 24, where attendees can design condom wrappers while discussing safer sex methods and enjoying rainbow cupcakes.

The final ODEI-sponsored event will be a transgender history book club on Tuesday, Oct. 30 in Lentz House during Common Hour. ODEI and Unity House both expressed a desire to put on programming and events beyond LGBTQ+ History Month.

Bussey added that he was pleased with the attendance at the events held so far and credited this in part to students' input on the events. He urges students to continue giving ODEI feedback about what events they would like to see ODEI put on.

"We are working to develop more consistent programming for LGBTQ+ topics," Bussey said. "We are in the midst of LGBTQ+ History Month right now, but more regular and sort of signature programming for queer and trans gender representation on campus is something that's going to be happening."

Similarly, Lituchy and Harris emphasized that Unity House is always open to students and will host different events throughout the year. "Keep on the lookout for more programming because there's always more coming," Harris said.

Smith raises concerns over former SMAs' move to split

Continued from Page 1

Though, according to the members of SRPA, the group began deliberating their departure in the spring of 2018, Smith says the dissociation came as a surprise to him. Before the open letter was published, the SMAs had been in the process of creating two new programs for the school and working with New Directions, a local domestic abuse and rape crisis center that runs a 24-hour hotline, according to Smith.

"[New Directions has] a very broad and deep knowledge base and experience working with people have experienced sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, etc.," Civil Rights/Title IX Coordinator Samantha Hughes said.

Hughes met with New Directions last week to go over Kenyon-specific guidelines in managing a hotline that is open to Kenyon Students. Since the crisis center is not officially affiliated with the school, they are not mandated reporters.

As of now, the future of the SMAs remains uncertain.

"We're going to have to kind of hit the drawing board again and see what happens as far as moving forward," Smith said. "[The Health and Counseling Center] is committed to working with students to make Kenyon healthier, but it's too soon to speculate on plans for a SMA reboot or SMA-proxy program."

The members of SRPA, on the other hand,

have achieved their goal of regaining a sense of privacy between their group and the peers with whom they speak. Because they are no longer affiliated with the school in any way, SRPA members are not mandated reporters and therefore do not have to disclose any of their findings to Campus Safety, the Health and Counseling Center or the Title IX Office, according to Hughes.

Despite this, Smith expressed concern over the newly founded group.

"Without proper training, without proper support — which now they lose because they aren't connected to our Title IX office or to our counselors — if they receive some information that is extremely heavy or intense, they've got no support system either," Smith said. "And that's a concern for me, reaching out for all students. I get concerned for students trying to take on some things that they're not equipped to handle."

The members of SRPA hope to eventually work tangentially with the College while still maintaining their independence. "The Sexual Respect Peer Alliance's goal is to move forward with the support of the College in order to cohesively provide the best support to students," they wrote.

Students seeking confidential counseling can also reach out to the Health and Counseling Center's clinicians and counseling staff, who have medical licenses and therefore doctor-patient confidentiality; the New Directions Hotline (740-427-4357); or the community chaplains.

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Yearly subscriptions to *The Kenyon Collegian* are available for \$50. Checks should be made payable to *The Kenyon Collegian* and directed to the Editors-in-Chief.

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Mailing address: *The Kenyon Collegian*, Student Activities Center, Gambier, OH 43022.

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Donors drive big weekend

Continued from Page 1

"[It was] a decision he had told me at dinner," Decatur said. "I know that it wasn't completely spontaneous, but it was a wonderful surprise." It was this unexpected gift that put the current total at \$224 million.

In addition to the invitation-only dinner, the campaign's Saturday schedule featured the dedication of the newly constructed Keithley House, a block party in the Village, a conversation about the economics of higher education with David Feldman '78 and Decatur, and a faculty panel discussion.

"One of the things alums take away is that the quality of teaching at Kenyon is so high and their special relationship with faculty members," Decatur said about the panel. "But they're often thinking of professors that they had 30 to 40 years ago, and so part of this was to remind them that we still have that tradition today."

In addition to the panel, Karen Hicks in the Department of Biology, James Keller in the Department of Chemistry, Sam Pack in the Department of Anthropology and Jaret Treber in the Department of Economics were all promoted to full professor and approved by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees during its Friday meeting, according to an Oct. 17 bulletin.

The Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement will hold an event for Kenyon families over Family Weekend at 11 a.m. on Oct. 20 in Rosse Hall. It will also take the public launch of the campaign to Boston; Washington, D.C., New York; Chicago and San Francisco next semester, with additional cities next year, according to Baker.

The weekend went smoothly and was an overall success, according to Decatur. "It was wonderful to see and hear testimonials from donors, especially those who were talking about their commitment to financial aid scholarship and building endowment on campus," he said. "That's really important for Kenyon moving forward. For me that was the big powerful message."

Library to emphasize study space over books

HEATHER MCCABE
STAFF WRITER

With the layout of the new library, the visibility of books on Kenyon's campus will change. The library — referred to by the Kenyon website as Kenyon Commons — is slated for completion in the summer of 2020, but students arriving that fall will find only study spaces and classrooms on the upper three floors.

The main collection will be held primarily on the lower two levels. "Most of the collection will be in compact shelving, so it opens and closes," Ronald Griggs, vice president of Library and Information Services (LBIS), said. "That's where we get the increased capacity for the main collection."

Compact shelving is considered open shelving, meaning that anyone can access it and browse at their leisure. Olin and Chalmers Memorial Library featured electronic compact shelving, inherited from The Ohio State University, on its first floor. Kenyon Commons' compact shelves will be mechanical, accessed by turning a wheel.

Griggs says that this shelving will be more physically accessible. "The collection is [now] in order and that's an accessibility issue — and the collection is easy to find — it won't be stuck around corners," he said. He also explained that moving compact shelving is made very easy by a series of gears, suggesting that people of all abilities will be able to turn the wheel using minimal force.

Some professors, however, have expressed concern about the visibility of books in the new library. "It was my understanding from conversations last spring that the plan for the library would have all the books essentially underground, and there were a number of faculty at Kenyon who were concerned about that," Associate Professor of English and Department Chair Jene Schoenfeld said.

Schoenfeld thought that an understanding had been reached among the architects, LBIS and concerned faculty: "They have agreed to put books on the first floor in reading rooms: each subject will have an area with books available," she said. When asked about this possibility, Griggs denied

that this was the current plan, instead noting that LBIS is considering placing books in study spaces, such as a poetry room.

Schoenfeld said that although she understands the importance of providing space for studying and collaborative work, it is also crucial to display books.

"I'm a book nerd, and I'm an English professor, and I do think that it matters that books be visible in the library," Schoenfeld said. "Sometimes you don't know what you're looking for until you see it."

"I know that there is this perception that compact shelving is not browsable," said Amy Badertscher, library director and vice president of LBIS, "but I've talked to a lot of libraries where they have things on compact shelving and they say there's no problem."

Griggs identifies the changing image of the library as an aspect of modern scholarship: the interplay between electronic and print media changes relevance per discipline. "The reality is that circulating book collections are decreasing across libraries in general," Badertscher said. "The number of books being borrowed is reduced."



Currently, the College's collections are kept in a storage facility located beyond the Kenyon Athletic Center. | ERYN POWELL

College considers support for students fasting during finals

The overlapping of Ramadan with finals poses a challenge for Muslim students on campus.

HULDA GENG
STAFF WRITER

HENRY TERHUNE
STAFF WRITER

This academic year, the Islamic holiday of Ramadan — Sunday, May 5, 2019 to Tuesday, June 4, 2019 — will overlap with finals, senior week and graduation. As the observance of this holiday could present some academic challenges for Muslim students, the College is working to provide different accommodations.

During the month of Ramadan observing Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset. This could mean that, for tests around midday or later, students would not be at peak performance.

"If you ... fast all day, that just puts some obvious challenges during one of the most academically stressful parts of the year," Rachel Kessler '04, Kenyon chaplain and priest-in-charge at Harcourt Par-

ish, said.

Marc Bragin, Jewish chaplain and director of Kenyon Hillel, reflected on his experience with Jewish holidays during which fasting is observed. "You can't really concentrate ... You concentrate on yourself. You look inward. You fast in order to make yourself spiritually aware," he said. "Going and having an exam and doing that are not really congruent."

One accommodation the College is considering is providing alternative meal times for students. "We in the religious life office are looking to provide food, before sun-up, so that [Muslim students] can eat breakfast at 4:30 or 5 in the morning," Bragin said. This meal might be held at the Center for Global Engagement (CGE) although nothing has been finalized. The Office of Religious Life is also looking into providing food that students can box up and take with them to eat after sunset or before

sunrise, according to Kessler.

This provision of meals outside of Peirce hours is important, notes Professor of Mathematics Noah Aydin. "[Students] don't have time to cook for themselves, especially at the end of the semester and during the finals week," he said. "It would be very helpful if AVI can provide those meals for students who are fasting."

The Office of Religious Life intends to advocate for students by encouraging professors to allow fasting students to eat during the exam, should it fall after sunrise, or to move exams around for individuals, according to Thomas Hawks, dean of Academic Advising and Support. "We haven't made any decisions on it yet ... But we're aware that that's a place where a lot of our attention is going to be focused," he said.

Bragin also noted that the Office of Religious Life always welcomes feedback from students.

"We can't know everything, and so if there are some things that [Muslim students] need help with, we're happy to do that. All they have to do is come ask," he said.

Kenyon's academic policy states that "the College will support students who observe religious and faith holidays." Missing class for religious observances is an excused absence although students should report it to their professors at the start of the semester, and should expect to make up all missed classwork. Hawks says there will likely be additional policy put into place around religious observances, in light of Ramadan's current position in the academic year.

"We're going to try to talk with students themselves, talk with the faculty. We're certainly working a lot with the chaplains, and since this will have an impact on international students, we're also working with the CGE, and trying to figure out what kinds of accom-

modations would be appropriate," Hawks said.

The Office of Academic Advising and Support will be working with students, faculty, the chaplains, and the CGE to determine what accommodations are necessary.

"We are still at the information gathering stage at this point, but our goal is to come up with some policies that allow students to do their best, especially during finals," Hawks said.

Bragin says that he hopes that professors and the Provost will work to make themselves aware and supportive of people's spiritual beliefs. "All we have to do is work together and see what the best way is in order to navigate these holidays," he said. "Same thing with Muslim holidays, Jewish holidays, Christian holidays, whatever the case may be. Sitting down, having a conversation, and trying to understand each other."

“Kenyon Listens” launches campus-wide discussion efforts

EVEY WEISBLAT
NEWS ASSISTANT

On Oct. 4, a group of 54 students, faculty and administrators streamed into the Alumni Dining Room to talk about “Kenyonness.” The first Kenyon Listens Community Dialogue, organized by the College’s Ombudperson, a mediator for internal affairs, Carrie Knell, was about to commence.

Open to all community members, the Kenyon Listens program is a series of conversations on topics relating to life at the College, the first of which focused on belonging.

“I always had the intention of wanting to start a dialogue program, so I brought forth to [President] Sean Decatur my proposal for a dialogue program over the summer,” Knell said. While Kenyon Listens isn’t directly related to the small group conversations that occurred last April, it “tied really well in with the spring program,” Knell said.

George Goldman ’20, who served as one of the discussion’s facilitators, emphasized the importance of having frequent, campus-wide conversations. “We shouldn’t just wait for really big moments where the current lack of conversation causes a lot of hurt,” Goldman said. “[This should be] an ongoing, continuous, frankly never-ending conversation.”

During the event, participants sat at circular tables, each of which had a facilitator and about six people who took turns answering questions posed by Knell. The questions ranged from experiences of belonging or alienation, the meaning of the Kenyon identity and the significance of these types of dialogue.

Goldman said that, because our aspirations as a college are so high, it’s easy to overlook the magnitude of work required for large-scale changes to occur. “We sort of just accept that there’s the magic spell of the Kokosing that we’re all under, and we all get along so well,” he said. “But I think that sentiment comes at the cost of not spending a lot of time actually sitting down and figuring out what Kenyonness really means.”

Goldman noted that all students should be charged with assessing and challenging the Kenyon identity. “It’s not just say the role of students at Kenyon whose identities make them feel out of place to do the heavy-lifting of examining the Kenyon identity,” Goldman said. “It’s sort of incumbent on everyone.”

Associate Provost of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Ted Mason stressed the importance of a one-step-back, two-steps-forward approach. “If one forges community by certain important kinds of conversations, that doesn’t happen overnight,” he said.

“I don’t have a master plan. I think these things go one step at a time. I’m certainly convinced that we need to listen better.”

Mason said that it’s impossible for people to be on the same page all the time, but he wants to see the College build its capacity to handle tension and difference, which happens through listening.

“If that emphasis on speech is really aimed at communication, there’s a half

that’s missing — and that’s like listening,” Mason said. “I think that listening to understand, listening to empathize, listening to engage is the part that we really need to work on. Listening, is at its best, active.”

The next dialogue event will be on emotional and physical safety on Nov. 15.

“I encourage people to give it a try and see if they like it, and if they do come back next time,” Knell said.



Faculty, staff and students converse at Kenyon Listens on Oct. 4. | CHUZHU ZHONG

CSAD hosts informational event about charter commission

CAMERON MESSINIDES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BETÜL AYDIN
NEWS EDITOR

Over the summer, with a 5-2 vote, Mount Vernon’s city council approved an ordinance that will allow residents to vote to create a commission to write a charter on the November ballot. As election day approaches, Kenyon’s Center for the Study of American Democracy (CSAD) held an informational event on Oct. 9 in the Knox County Memorial Building.

“Anytime you want to change the basic rules by which a political system works, it is going to be highly controversial, and this is a really controversial issue in Mount Vernon,” said Professor of Political Science David Rowe, who serves as the interim director of CSAD. The event was organized to provide more information about what the charter commission is, why it’s on the ballot and what implications it has for the citizens of Mount Vernon.

A charter serves as a constitution for a city and is written by a commission. The document outlines how the city is going to be governed and moves away from a statutory form of government, which operates under state law. For Mount Vernon, implementing a charter could mean having drastic changes, or keeping the system relatively the same; it all depends on what the commission decides.

City Council wrote out charters in 1951 and 1963, which

ultimately did not pass. This November, the ballot invites citizens to consider the issue yet again.

Around 120 people attended the event last Tuesday, including Mount Vernon residents, Kenyon staff and students, reporters from the *Mount Vernon News* and *Knox Pages*, Mayor of Mount Vernon Richard K. Mavis and President Sean Decatur.

During the first hour of the evening, two municipality experts — Garry E. Hunter and E. Rod Davisson — shared their insights on city charters. Hunter focused on its potential benefits, like providing an opportunity to improve on the efficiency of government, while Davisson, a village manager of Obetz, Ohio, which has a charter, discussed advantages and drawbacks from his experience.

Both Hunter and Davisson agreed that a charter government would not have much impact on the daily life of residents and that citizens could always initiate changes to it.

The event proceeded to a discussion of why this issue was put on the ballot. Four members of City Council took the stage and gave various reasons for the decision, including more flexibility and responsiveness to questions of city administration.

Jeff Gottke, a member of City Council, noted that he voted yes in the interest of exploring different options and would vote against the charter if he does not like what the commission puts forth. He views the charter

as an opportunity to give Mount Vernon citizens more power and say in local government.

“[I] heard some things from these two gentlemen tonight that scared me,” Gottke said in reference to Davisson’s and Hunter’s presentations.

Nancy R. Vail was one of the council members who did not vote in favor of the ordinance. In a statement read by Rowe at the Oct. 9 event, she expressed worries that checks and balances may weaken under a charter government.

There are 21 candidates running to be on the commission; if there are enough votes in favor of considering the charter, 15 will be elected.

Tanner Salyers is among the city charter commission candi-

dates. He has read several charters from other cities and believes the one for Tiffin, Ohio could serve as a good model for Mount Vernon. Salyers wants a city government that is “efficient, effective, responsible and responsive” and believes adopting a charter could help ensure this.

Associate Director of Student Engagement Sam Filkins is another candidate for the city charter commission. He views this as part of his civic duty and an “opportunity to look at what works.” Filkins has experience with local politics, as he was previously a member of the Gambier Village Council.

Director of Research and Instruction at Library and Information Services Julia Warga

is also a Kenyon staff member running for this position.

Rowe noted that the event was a nonpartisan space and that CSAD did not take a stance on the city charter issue or endorse any of the candidates. Instead, the evening was meant to provide local voters with resources and information about the topic.

“It was clear that this was going to be a controversial topic in Mount Vernon and one of the things CSAD, and Kenyon, is trying to do is have a greater engagement with the surrounding community so that we are not just this isolated college on the Hill, that we actually are a good civic actor in the broader community, and so this was part of that,” Rowe said.



City Council members discuss why they put the city charter on the ballot. | CAMERON MESSINIDES

Great Country continues Knox County’s musical tradition

The local country and bluegrass band has played shows regularly in Martinsburg since 2013.

ELIZABETH STANLEY
STAFF WRITER

Music has always been a part of J.R. Tackett’s life, and he doesn’t intend to stop any time soon. For Tackett, music is “like taking vitamins. That’s my energy.”

Though he’s played in many bands throughout his career, Tackett currently performs vocals and rhythm guitar for the band Great Country, which he founded in 2013. Great Country plays all around central Ohio, including Martinsburg, a town 15 minutes from Kenyon.

Growing up in Ashland, Ky., Tackett remembers plucking the strings of his grandmother’s guitar that she kept in the closet of her old farmhouse. “I’d sit down on the floor and reach down [under the closet’s curtain] and pluck on the strings,” Tackett said. He’s been playing ever since.

In 1970, Tackett started playing in country bands in and around the Columbus area. He formed Great Country with other players he’d met during his music career: Earl Scoles (lead guitar), Terry Martin (steel guitar), John Sheets (bass and banjo player) and Tom Drake (drummer).

Inspired by classic country and rock-n-roll artists like Merle Haggard, Hank Williams and Johnny Cash, Great Country plays at fairs, square dances and other communi-

ty and private events in and around central Ohio. Throughout his career, Tackett has been most influenced by the songs of Merle Haggard. “Some of the songs that [Haggard] did sounded like me,” Tackett said. “He sounds like he’s singing about my old hometown, he’s singing about my old country road where I used to be.”

Born in a family of musicians, Martin has been surrounded by music all his life. He’s been playing the steel guitar since he was 14 years old, encouraged and inspired by his good friend and famous guitarist Leon Rhodes.

“Wherever we play, people enjoy hearing traditional country music because they don’t hear the steel guitar, they don’t hear the banjo anymore with the new country,” Martin said of Great Country. “They enjoy hearing the classic country.”

Born and raised in Martinsburg, Scoles was first inspired by the guitar as a child, watching one of his father’s friends (a guitarist he admired) play music with his father out behind their family’s store. “I just started sitting in when they would play, and I’d watch him, see the chords he was getting and that’s how I learned,” he said.

Scoles said that the other members of Great Country are what keep him playing. “I love them all,” he said. “We’re family. You’re that way in any band.”

On the first and third Saturday of each month, Great Country plays for a square dance at the Martinsburg

Activity Center. Inside the activity center is a large dance floor with a stage for the band and plenty of space for dancing. There is always someone on the dance floor moving to the authentic country sound of a Hank Williams song or skipping through the steps to a fun and lively square dance.

Great Country’s band members play for the love and joy it brings

them. “If you’ve got a problem,” said Scoles, “you can sit down with the guitar and probably any instrument anybody plays and just pick at it for a while. And pretty soon your problem’s gone.”

Great Country will be playing at Martinsburg Activity Center in from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. this coming Saturday, Oct. 20. There is a \$5 entrance fee.



Top: The band; bottom left: Earl Scoles; bottom right: Terry Martin |ARMIYA SHAIKH

CLASS CLASH						
COMPILED BY OLIVER VANDENBERG						
						
	Faculty Total:	Senior Total:	Junior Total:	Sophomore Total:	First-Year Total:	
	15	9	6	7	9	
	Answer	Benjamin “Doc” Locke	Daniel Olivieri ‘19	Ariela Papp ‘20	David Han ‘21	Owen Fitzgerald ‘22
What event is happening at the BFEC the Saturday of Family Weekend?	<i>The Harvest Festival</i>	Kokosing turtle race	Fall Harvest Festival	Fall Fest	Harvest Festival	Harvest Festival
What is Kenyon’s newest and most ambitious fundraising campaign?	<i>Our Path Forward</i>	Our Path Forward	Our Path Forward	Our Path Forward	Our Plan Forward	Our Path Forward
Who are the candidates in the Ohio 7th district congressional race?	<i>Ken Harbaugh Bob Gibbs</i>	Bob Gibbs and Ken Harbaugh	Harbaugh and Sutton	Don’t know	Ken Harbaugh and a Ghoulish Republican	Ken Harbaugh and Rod
What is the only National Forest in Ohio?	<i>Wayne National Forest</i>	Unknown	Columbus National Park	No idea	Zaleski National Forest	Unknown
	2	2	2	1	2	

Phi Tau breaks world record for World's Longest Tree Hug

The fraternity's live stream, eight hours and 15 minutes long, helped raise \$6,000 for charity.

NOELLE O'NEAL
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, Oct. 8th, Rhys Pinder '20 hugged a tree on Middle Path for eight hours and 15 minutes, breaking the Guinness world record for the "World's Longest Tree Hug." This event was hosted by the Phi Kappa Tau (Phi Taus) fraternity in front of the Church of the Holy Spirit.

However, Pinder and his fraternity were not just in it for the glory. They were fundraising for SeriousFun, a charity dedicated to helping children with serious illness improve their mental and social well-being through camp and recreational experiences. The Phi Taus' philanthropy chair, Henry Biedron '21, organized the event. Biedron pub-

licized the event, coordinated two live streams and set up a donation campaign. He was also on the ground selling cookies, taking donations and making sure the event ran smoothly. Overall, the event raised \$6,000 for SeriousFun.

Biedron was also Pinder's right hand man — literally. While Pinder's hands were occupied hugging the tree, Biedron was in charge of providing him with food and water. Pinder first pitched the idea for the event as a first year after it came to him "in a fever dream." Over time Pinder

became more serious about attempting the record and making it a fundraising event. It was Biedron who pro-

vided the final push that turned this from a fever dream to reality.

"It doesn't matter what you're doing, as long as what you are doing is supporting something that you believe," Biedron said.

Pinder and Biedron explained that the tree they chose was perfect because of its proximity to the Church of the Holy Spirit, which gave them access to electricity. The tree is also on Middle Path, which drew traffic. It was strong enough to support Pinder as he grew tired, and it was small enough to wrap his arms around. Pinder also stated that this tree did not have the same presence as an older tree, but "now this tree has been given a link to this character-building moment." For Pinder, this tree stands out from the rest. "I don't notice any other tree," He said. "I just think, 'There's that tree that I hugged

for eight hours.'"

Aside from general exhaustion and one ruined sweatshirt, Pinder reported no major complications in the event. Lauren Onel '20, who helped bake cookies for the event, was not surprised that he made it the full eight hours, though she said that "the expression on his face definitely changed at around six and a half hours".

Onel was one of the many people who came to support Pinder during the hug. Members of Pep Band came to play Pinder songs of support, visitors on tours wished him luck and his friends played music and podcasts to keep him entertained during the event.

Biedron and Pinder are in the process of submitting forms and evidence of the feat to Guinness World Records in order to make his triumph official.

“It doesn't matter what you're doing, as long as what you are doing is supporting something that you believe.

Henry Biedron '21



The Phi Taus test their equipment on Middle Path. | COURTESY OF DAVID SEARLS



Chris Whalen '19 feeds Rhys Pinder '20 Chipotle. | COURTESY OF DAVID SEARLS

Sunday Night Nibbles delivers homemade meals to students

August Corper '21 and Willa Moore '19 address lack of weekend dining options on campus.

DANTE KANTER
FEATURES EDITOR

For Uli Schwendener '21, Sunday nights begin at 8 p.m. On Oct. 8, he pulled up on his bicycle to North Campus Apartment (NCA) 8C and climbed through the kitchen window, which is left open each week for easy access. Immediately, he was hit by the smell of breakfast: fried eggs and baked potatoes courtesy of August Corper '21 and Willa Grace Moore '19. A group of students sat on the couch at the far end of the room, chatting. One was cutting an avocado. This is where Sunday Night Nibbles, a weekly student-run food preparation and delivery service, do their work.

Schwendener delivers for the group. His first delivery of the night was to a neighboring NCA. He stowed the packaged meal in his backpack and rode off. The resident of the NCA had placed his order the previous night at 3 a.m. "He sets an alarm for himself once a week," said Corper, "so he doesn't forget."

Sunday Night Nibbles began last semester as a one-off event hosted by the Delta Phi fraternity. "It was literally white rice with some pre-cooked chicken on it and a fried egg, and people ate it up," said Corper, the

founder of the service. "It was really easy to exceed students' expectations."

Corper said that the idea occurred to him after he spent last summer cooking for himself almost every day. After a conversation with Moore in Corper's dorm room, the two decided to work together. "It's just nice from a student perspective to buy food from other students," said Moore. "There's something really homey and comfortable about it, which I think is kind of the Kenyon way."

After Corper and Moore formed Sunday Night Nibbles, they asked their friends to help them deliver food. "As far as jobs go, it's fun," said Schwendener. In the early weeks of the service, he delivered to the entire campus on his bike, but now that Nibbles has a delivery person with access to a car, he now only delivers as far south as the Morgans.

Occasionally his shifts go past midnight. Sometimes biking in total darkness, he has had near collisions with everything from students to rac-

coons to Campus Security vehicles.

"We're hot, man," said Corper, scrolling through his Instagram messages. That night, Nibbles had received 20 more orders than they expected, and had to turn down 15 of them. Previously, they had held an Instagram poll to determine which recipe they would prepare that Sunday. By the poll's end, 200 users had voted on it.

"I don't see ourselves adding another kitchen and having new cooks," said Moore. "I see us staying pretty small. It's like we're making food for a bunch of our friends."

Unlike previous late-night food services such as Nite Bites, which was run out of Peirce Pub and closed in 2015, Sunday Night Nibbles' services are not associated with the College. "I think in general Kenyon students respond well to other Kenyon students making things happen," said Corper. "Regardless of how good our food is, people respect it. People respect that we're hustling."

Moore chimed in: "But it's also pretty good." Corper agreed.

“There's something really homey and comfortable about it, which I think is kind of the Kenyon way.

Willa Moore, '19



August Corper '21 and Willa Grace Moore '19 prepare food for Sunday Night Nibbles. | COURTESY OF SUNDAY NIGHT NIBBLES



Leaders of The Plums gather outside Finn House. | COURTESY OF SAM BRODSKY

HIKA launches student-led writing workshop, The Plums

SAM BRODSKY
STAFF WRITER

It was an autumnal Sunday evening. The wind was whistling. Kenyon College looked empty, except for a file of students shuffling into the Cheever Seminar Room in Finn House. Clutching pencils and paper, they took their seats in silence. They were about to take part in *HIKA*'s first student-led writing workshop, The Plums.

HIKA, Kenyon's oldest literary journal, launched its workshop on Sunday, Sept. 30. The meeting kicked off a series of bi-monthly creative writing workshops led by members of the *HIKA* editorial staff.

The members of staff passed around packets of poetry and prose to the rest of the students. The front page read "Hika: The Plums," and below this title, William Carlos Williams' poem "This is Just to Say." The Plums workshop takes its name from a line in the poem ("I have eaten / the plums /that were in the icebox").

The Plums offer a "routine, creative space for the exchange and critique of original writing," according to a decorative flyer. The group also offers campus-wide readings, collaborative projects, and artistic community.

The four students who lead The Plums — Katherine Franco '21, Emmy Roday '21, Noah Dversdall '19 and Dante Kanter '21 — began the workshop by explaining the reason behind

forming the group. (Kanter is also the features editor for the *Collegian*.)

"As freshmen last year, some of us were disappointed to find that Kenyon lacked an informal space to share and critique writing with peers," Franco said. "Plums gives students a space to write in the company of others without the official presence of a professor. It was important for us to establish a student-run group independent of the curricular writing program."

The group proceeded to read aloud pieces of writing they found inspiring and thought-provoking: Dean Young's "Dear Friend," Frank O'Hara's "Why I Am Not a Painter" and Emily Dickinson's "I dwell in Possibility."


Students then critiqued each piece, discussing what they liked and disliked about the writing, what they could learn from each author, and the elements from the poems they hoped to integrate into their own writing.

Finally, The Plums moved on to the free-write section of the workshop. Students turned to the last page of the packet, which contained two writing prompts: "In this stucco house there is nothing but air..." and "I could pick anything and think of you."

Both of these lines come from the poetry of Rita Dove, who is the keynote speaker of the *Kenyon Review*'s Literary Festival this year. Former poet laureate and winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Dove will visit Kenyon in November to

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receive the Kenyon Review Award for Literary Achievement. In preparation, *HIKA* and the *Kenyon Review* teamed up for a literary contest, using Dove's poetry as writing prompts. Editors of *HIKA* will select one featured poem from all the submissions for publication in their upcoming issue.

Students wrote away for a furious 15 minutes. Once time was up, Kanter told everyone to stop writing and asked if anyone was willing to

share. At first, there was silence. Then, one person shared. Then another. Soon enough, everyone was sharing their poetry and prose.

As The Plums made their way out of Cheever, the sun was beginning to set. Some students walked to Peirce Hall; others went back to their dorms. Franco was satisfied with their first workshop. "It went well," she said. "Hopefully our workshop will be so tempting that students will want to keep plucking from the icebox."

Coming soon to Bolton: *The Wolves*

ELEANOR EVANS-WICKBERG
STAFF WRITER

Learning to play soccer, decorating water bottles and "team dinners" at Peirce Dining Hall: the rehearsal process of Kenyon College Drama Club's production of *The Wolves* by Sarah DeLappe has been unconventional. This unique format reflects a show that is far from the typical sports narrative.

DeLappe's *The Wolves* portrays the nine members of a girls' soccer team who are referenced only by their jersey numbers. The play follows these girls as they warm up for soccer games together and tackle every subject from the Khmer Rouge to pimples. Directed by Associate Professor of Drama and Film Ben Viccellio, the performance stars Helen Carter '20, Ally Merkel '20, Nina Samaan '20, Samara Handelsman '21, Mollie Greenberg '19, Meredith Awalt '19, Olivia Marr '20, Olivia Lindsay '19 and Emily Blanquera '20.

"We're all very close," Carter, who plays No. 46, said of *The Wolves*' cast. "We meet to run lines together a lot. We need to really rely on each other and help each other out."

The Wolves premiered in 2016 and was DeLappe's debut. The play made waves in the theater community and eventually became a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize. It's an unconventional show in many ways, especially with its all-female cast. Although there are nine characters, each one is distinct and important to the play — there is no single main character. Watching the play feels like watching teenage girls interact: characters talk over one another; use "um," "uh" and "like" frequently; and struggle to effectively articulate their thoughts and feelings to one another.

The characters in the show don't just talk about soccer; they often actually use soccer balls on-

stage. Carter said that she played soccer before the show, "but not to the extent to which the script demanded." In one scene, Carter's character has to recite a chant while juggling a soccer ball. To prepare for this, Carter practiced juggling a soccer ball almost every day for the past month and a half.

Carter believes *The Wolves* is an important show because "it's centered around teenage girls and their problems, which I think a lot of the world sees as trivial." In *The Wolves*, teenage girls face the trials of growing up as they discuss fitting in, their families and sex, while making the issues seem about as far from trivial as they could get.

"I think it's important that something like this is onstage and brought to a medium where it can take these seemingly trivial struggles and make them really high-stakes and real," Carter said.

Carter explained that *The*

KCDC's fall mainstage shows teenage girls in an honest light.

Wolves taps into "a universal struggle of needing to fit in and needing to belong and wanting to be liked and wanting to be a part of something." Personal and passionate, *The Wolves* drives home the

power of teamwork, self-reliance and girlhood. This performance is one-of-a-kind — make it your goal to see it this weekend.

The Wolves will run Oct. 18, 19 and 20 in the Bolton Theater.

Cast members of *The Wolves* rehearse a scene. | ERYN POWELL

Students, faculty share bilingual writing by Latinx authors

MAE HUNT
ARTS EDITOR

This year's celebration of Latinx Heritage Month at Kenyon concluded on Tuesday, Oct. 16 with a bilingual reading of written work by Latinx, Latin American and Spanish authors. Fourteen students and eight faculty and staff members shared poetry and passages in Finn House's Cheever Room. Readers recited work in both Spanish and English. Some readers selected writing that alternated between English and Spanish, while others chose to read a piece twice: first in its original Spanish and then translated into English.

William P. Rice Associate Profes-

sor of English and Literature Ivonne García, who also serves as the faculty advisor to *The Collegian*, acted as the event's master of ceremonies.

García held Kenyon's first bilingual reading in 2011 to honor what was then known as Hispanic Heritage Month. Originally limited to poetry, the event has grown and changed with each successive year, eventually evolving to include all forms of writing by Latinx, Latin American and Spanish voices. Kenyon students are also invited to read their own work. The reading became a staple of Latinx Heritage Month at Kenyon, which is celebrated every year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

"It is probably my favorite event

of the year at Kenyon, because it's so moving," García said.

This was the first year the reading was held in Cheever Room during Common Hour. Thanks to a class earlier in the morning, the long tables faced each other. Although untraditional for a reading, the seating arrangement helped enhance the sense of community in the room and made for a lively and engaged audience.

"You're part of something important and big," García said to the audience as she introduced the readers.

Before they began, each reader explained why they had selected their piece. Some were personally affected by a work of literature, while others emphasized the work's im-

portance to a broader Latinx identity. Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation Fellow and Visiting Instructor of Modern Languages and Literatures Janelle Gondar shared a selection of Spanish haikus by José Juan Tablada that evoked breathtaking nature imagery. Juliette Montoya '22 performed Melissa Lozada-Olivia's spoken word poem "If I Got Paid for All My Emotional Labor," earning laughs and sighs from the audience.

Dani Martinez '21 shared two pieces: the poem "A Julia de Burgos" by Julia de Burgos, and a poem she wrote herself in response to de Burgos, titled "Spilling the Beans and Other Stories." Martinez said she usually chooses not to share the work she writes, but was inspired to participate in this particular reading due to her role as co-director of Kenyon's Spanish newspaper, *A Medio Camino*. Like de Burgos does in "A Julia de Burgos," Martinez confronts a version of herself in "Spilling the Beans," but unlike de Burgos, who writes solely in Spanish, Martinez alternates between Spanish and English.

"It's kind of Spanglish," Martinez said. "And the reason I did that is because it's kind of exemplifying the language I'm comfortable with,

and so it's kind of me meeting myself. That's what the poem is. Kind of the way that Julia does it too."

Although the reading is firmly cemented in the tradition of Kenyon's Latinx Heritage Month, there were plenty of new faces in the audience. Alexis Miramontes '22 described her first time attending the reading as an emotional experience.

"As a bilingual speaker, I was very appreciative of this space that we created ... I kind of felt at home," Miramontes said. "It was way powerful to hear my peers talk in Spanish. It was very moving, especially when Ivonne García was reading. It made me feel very passionate and almost brought me to tears."

García expressed satisfaction with the reading's status as the finale of Latinx Heritage Month.

"[It's] a very emotive moment where those of us who participate in this culture can celebrate it ... and at the same time, have others join us to celebrate a literary tradition that is as old as Shakespeare," García said. "And the closing I think should be something that involves the whole community, that brings together staff, faculty, students in a celebration of a literature that is just breathtaking."



Vice President for Student Affairs Meredith Harper Bonham reads aloud in Cheever. | BEN NUTTER

Students in Installation Art class make campus their exhibit

CHAMELI BELK-GUPTA
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 8, several familiar spots on Kenyon's campus were transformed by eight new public works of art. These works, consisting of items ranging from ribbons, to written messages, to old furniture, beckoned to community members for closer examination. The pieces, on display until Oct. 15, were created by students from the ARTS 360: Installation Art class for their first project focused on public art.

Some works focus on the viewer's visual perception. "Shadow Portal," by Daniela Grande '20, is located against the construction wall across from Rosse Hall and invites the viewer to open and shut a narrow, black door to observe shadow and contrasts in light and color. Outside the gates of the College, "Stare," by Emily Barton '20, encourages viewers to look through rectangular tubes, manipulating slivers of tinted glass to skew their vision.

Some — like Sophia Kuvan's '19 "How does being in nature affect you?" — take a very hands-on approach. Under one of the trees on the lawn of the Church of the Holy Spirit, a sign presents this thought-provoking title along with a set of color-coded answers. Viewers were invited to take a ribbon with a color matching their answer from the wide selection encircling the tree.

Michaela Orr's '19 "Disclosure," just behind "Shadow Portal," is similarly focused on participant involvement. The piece invites viewers into a private booth to write on slips of paper an anonymous description of the last time they cried. These slips, later pinned to wispy netting, hovered there for all to see until rain dissolved them and left them in puddles on the ground. Orr explained how her feelings of isolation during her first year at Kenyon inspired her to create her piece.

"One of the really weird things about Kenyon is that you are so surrounded by people all the time ... but you also feel alienated from everyone," Orr said. With "Disclosure," Orr offers

an opportunity for the viewer to release these isolating emotions.

"For me, the Peer Counselors were a really good resource because they were anonymous," Orr said. "And I wanted to make a space that was like that, where you could confide in strangers anonymously." Through this quiet and safe interaction, these private feelings became public and available to the community, providing a sense of connection.

Like "Disclosure," many of these pieces centered around viewer interaction. For example, Sarah Gaglione's '19 "Speed Queen® Multi-Housing Coin Slide," placed in the atrium of Peirce Dining Hall, instructs the viewer to try on a jacket pieced together from clumps of lint collected from dryers across campus. Miles Shebar's '20 "Consortium" allowed for unintentional participation as two screens, one in Thomas Hall and one in the Great Hall transmitted live images of the happenings on one side to the other. On the other hand, Oscar Dow's '19 "Temptation" focused on the question of whether or not interaction was appropriate. The piece, outside Horvitz Hall, taunts viewers with a fenced-in red button, forcing the observer to decide whether or not to give

in and press it.

Sophie Weir's '20 "Not So Distant," located near Lentz House, invites the viewer into a large-scale, diorama-like construction resembling a decaying living room. The space, heavily scented by an ashtray filled with cigarettes, holds a deteriorating armchair, a small TV and a picture of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, all fully exposed to the elements of the outdoors. "It's getting really gross," Weir said. "That's fully the point of it." Decay is everywhere: in the disintegrating TV dinner, the brownish glass of water and the dead leaves on the furniture.

Weir explained her connection with the

mid-century era captured by her work: "It's not something I lived in," she said. "It's sort of from different pop culture references I had absorbed when I was a kid. These ideas I had of what the past looked like, whether or not it was real." This ambiguous understanding of the past gives the piece a sense of timelessness, lacking the specificity of any particular era.

Though each is distinct and representative of specific and individual intentions, all eight pieces from the Public Art Exhibition were able to connect with the Kenyon campus and its inhabitants in ways that allowed for meaningful reflection and insight.



Clockwise from top left: "Consortium" by Miles Shebar '20 in Peirce; "Disclosure" by Micheala Orr '19 near Rosse; "Not So Distant" by Sophie Weir '20 near Lentz; "Speed Queen® Multi-Housing Coin Slide" by Sarah Gaglione '19 in Peirce. | BEN NUTTER

STAFF EDITORIAL

Despite moving in the right direction, the College still has far to go in accessibility

The “Enhance” component of Kenyon’s Our Path Forward capital campaign aims to raise \$80 million to “adapt our campus to 21st-century teaching and learning.” The construction of the West Quad is one part of this plan, and when its construction is complete, 90 percent of classrooms on campus will be accessible, according to the website for Our Path Forward. While we are encouraged by this number, we also insist that it is not enough.

In a video posted to Twitter on Sept. 20, Chloe Hannah-Drullard ’20, who was using a wheelchair at the time, struggled to get into a Kenyon Bookstore bathroom without an automatic door. In other videos, Hannah-Drullard showed

furniture that blocked her access to an automatic door opener and a one-and-a-half inch ledge in front of Lentz House that made it difficult to get to her class inside without help. Buildings are often made accessible in accordance with the perceptions of the able-bodied.

Though the ledge in front of Lentz has since been fixed, these other areas of campus are only supposedly accessible. When 90 percent of classrooms are deemed accessible, will they actually be? Or will ledges and doors continue to stand in the way? And what about the other 10 percent? We also have concerns regarding the West Quad and the new library which will have compact shelving accessed by physically turning a wheel.

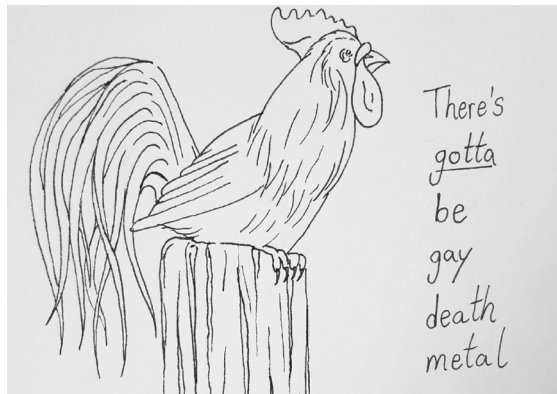
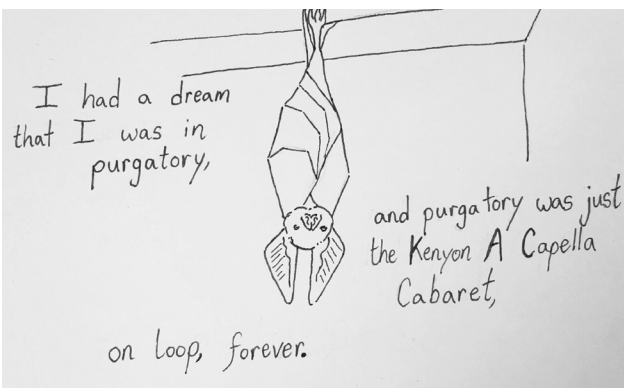
Kenyon has made accessibility a selling point in its capital campaign, and we are certainly pleased to see money pledged to improving campus accessibility, but 90 percent is not 100 percent, and we urge the College to make sure that the 90 percent that will be made accessible will truly be 90 percent.

The staff editorial is written weekly by editors-in-chief Cameron Messinides ’19 and Devon Musgrave-Johnson ’19, managing editor Grant Miner ’19 and executive director Matt Mandel ’19. You can contact them at messinidesc@kenyon.edu, musgrave-johnsond@kenyon.edu, minerg@kenyon.edu and mandelm@kenyon.edu, respectively.

The opinions page is a space for members of the community to discuss issues relevant to the campus and the world at large. The opinions expressed on this page belong only to the writer. Columns and letters to the editors do not reflect the opinions of the *Collegian* staff. All members of the community are welcome to express opinions through a letter to the editor.

The *Kenyon Collegian* reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length and clarity. The *Collegian* cannot accept anonymous or pseudonymous letters. Letters must be signed by individuals, not organizations, and must be 200 words or fewer. Letters must also be received no later than the Tuesday prior to publication. The *Kenyon Collegian* prints as many letters as possible each week subject to space, interest and appropriateness. Members of the editorial board reserve the right to reject any submission. The views expressed in the paper do not necessarily reflect the views of Kenyon College.

“Overheard at Kenyon”



SARAH DENDY

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors,

I recently had a chance to browse the *Collegian*’s website, taking the opportunity, as I occasionally do, to check up on the news around campus. I came to a popular (judging by the number of views) story about the recent appearance of a comedian on campus (“Pete Davidson ‘Objectively Bombed’ Anticipated Show”). The last article reported the fact that, in the course of his act, Mr. Davidson called out a well-dressed student as being a “nice respectful young man.” The student, an editor of *The Campus Constitutional*, was immediately booed by most — if not all — of the crowd. When Mr. Davidson then asked the audience, “Does he suck?” he was answered with cheering. With cheering!

I cannot begin to express how deeply ashamed I am of the student body and, by extension, my alma mater.

In March of this year, President Decatur penned a letter to the editor appearing in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. President Decatur rightly pointed out that free speech and inclusion are not irreconcilable. We can accommodate diverse speech and still treat each other with respect even when we disagree.

I entertain no doubt that if the target of Mr. Davidson’s boos and cheers had been a transgender student, a disabled student or, indeed, anyone but a political conservative, Kenyon would already have done extensive, collective soul-searching amid very vocal and public outcries. And rightly so. Why is the behavior of the student body different in this case? Doesn’t everyone deserve to be included? Doesn’t everyone deserve to be treated with at least a basic level of respect and human decency?

If you disagree with the content of *The Campus Constitutional*, then write a letter to the editor. Pen an article. Start a contrary publication. Substantive dialogue is the essence of good political and social discourse.

I am speaking now directly to the student body: You should be ashamed. Ashamed of yourselves if you took part in this behavior; ashamed of your peers if you did not. When you act this way, you evidence the failings of Kenyon in teaching you, and yourselves in learning, how to behave in a liberal democracy. You must be better than the behavior we see played out daily in the news. Be a better example now so that you may be a better example in the future.

Sincerely,
Christopher Mitchell, Esq. ’91

[Editor’s Note: This letter was edited for length and clarity.]

Solitude doesn’t entail loneliness, despite first-year mentality

Becoming comfortable with quiet moments is difficult, but the change might give us peace.

VIRGINIA KANE
CONTRIBUTOR

It is Monday afternoon. I sit with my book beneath an enormous oak tree on the lawn outside of Peirce, the early October breeze rustling each page as I annotate furiously. Around me, bursts of laughter and frantic conversation mix with the chimes of the 4 p.m. bells ringing out across Middle Path. It is a scene stolen from a Kenyon admissions brochure: the sunlight dancing across the first golden leaves of autumn, and students embracing one another as they break off into duos and trios.

In moments like this, I grow increasingly aware of my solitude — the fact that I am alone in a field, using my tattered raincoat as a makeshift blanket, a novel my only companion. And yet, despite how an outsider might perceive my temporary isola-

tion, I am content.

Prior to arriving in Gambier two short months ago, I had embraced my identity as a self-proclaimed ambivert — someone who could balance time between socializing or strengthening relationships and happily occupying a quiet space alone.

During my first few weeks at Kenyon, though, I quickly felt a profound change in my comfort level with the concept of being alone. As my classmates and I rushed through the chaos of orientation, the pressure to immediately make friends or gracefully settle into a social group felt inescapable. Clinging onto one another seemed necessary for survival as we navigated our unfamiliarity with the campus environment.

While I quickly met countless people and enjoyed spending time with them, differences in schedules and the unpredictability of my day-to-day life

made it impossible to be around them constantly. Each time I walked to class alone, ate a meal alone or simply sat in a public setting by myself, I worried that my solitude suggested that I was friendless, miserable and failing at college life in general.

While these fears may sound ridiculous and illogical now, the adjustment from a high school or hometown setting — where many of us may have had multiple safety nets of comfort and support — into a foreign social landscape like college can be daunting. I worried that spending time alone would inhibit me from meeting people and taking full advantage of new experiences or events.

As the weeks progressed and I settled into a more natural rhythm of college life, I quickly realized that absolutely nobody cared how or with whom I was spending my time. My insecurities stemmed from a place of imagined social norms that were actually nonexistent.

Alone time can be as natural and

“Alone time can be as natural and as necessary to your well-being as talking to a group of friends or going out to parties.”

as necessary to your well-being as talking to a group of friends or going out to parties. Resting in my dorm room, letting my mind wander

on the walk to class or working by myself at Wiggin Street Coffee allowed me to recharge and become more fully aware of my surroundings. I spent

entire evenings playing guitar alone in the practice rooms at Rosse Hall and repeatedly wandered to Sunset Point; sitting in complete silence for half an hour each night as I watched the sun’s graceful descent below the horizon.

What I had once expected to be a source of fear of missing out or guilt for spending my time in the “wrong way” had actually become a source of quiet confidence and gradual self-knowledge. We should stop viewing alone time as selfish or anti-social and instead embrace it.

By abandoning our self-judgment and prioritizing solitude, we can open ourselves to unexpectedly meaningful experiences, challenging the notion that being alone means being lonely.

Virginia Kane ’22 is from Alexandria, Va. You can contact her at kane2@kenyon.edu.

Ladies XC secure top 10 finish, while the Lords place 13th

Kenyon's cross country teams compete in their final event before NCAC championships.

FRANCIS BYRNE
STAFF WRITER

Lords

On Saturday, the Lords cross country team traveled to Oberlin to compete in the "Inter-Regional Rumble." Several schools from the region attended the event. Tommy Johnson '20 led the charge for Kenyon with a time of 25:58.8, which put him in a 10th-place finish. This was the second straight meet in which Johnson claimed Kenyon's top scoring place.

Kyle Rose '19 stayed on Johnson's tail, nine seconds and three spots behind. Rose ran his best race of the season to date, recording a time of

26:07.6. Along with their two top-15 placements, Kenyon runners finished at 81 and 106. Ben Bratzler '21 took the 81st spot, finishing at 27:38.0. Also running were Ethan Bradley '20, who came in at the 28:20.4 mark; Thomas Guidotti '21, who capped his race at 28:54.5; and Jeremy Bailer '22, whose time was 29:26.3.

These individual efforts for the Lords combined to give the team a 13th place finish out of the 27 schools who attended the event. Case

Western Reserve University placed first in the meet.

"It will be critical for us to run together at Conferences and pick guys off from Oberlin, Denison and OWU together in packs,"

Nate Gordon '20 said.

"We've put in the work; the hay's in the barn — it's time to pack up and ship up."

In two

weeks' time, the Kenyon Lords will compete in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships in Delaware, Ohio.

“We've put in the work; the hay's in the barn — it's time to pack up and ship up.”

Nate Gordon '20

Ladies

The Ladies cross-country team joined the men at Oberlin for the women's half of the Inter-Regional Rumble. Kenyon ran against 25 other schools in the race.

On the point for Kenyon was Sophie Niekamp '21, who finished 25th out of 313 runners. Niekamp not only claimed the top spot for Kenyon, but also recorded a collegiate personal best, with a time of 23:10.7.

Hot on Niekamp's heels was Andrea Ludwig '19, who finished eight spots later, in 38th. Ludwig also set a personal record in the race, running a time of 23:27.6.

Grace Moses '20 man-

aged a 46th-place finish with a time of 23:34.9. Rounding out Kenyon's scoring runners were Emma Becker '22, who managed a 58th-place finish, finishing at 23:44.3, and Caroline Daugherty '19, who finished at 76 with a time of 24:04.0.

Every scoring runner for Kenyon also managed to set a personal best during this race.

The cumulative effort of the Lady runners was enough for them to finish sixth out of the 26 schools running. The top-10 finish should help boost team confidence as they heal and look forward to the NCAC championships, which will be held on Oct. 27 in Delaware, Ohio.

Ladies volleyball falls in competitive match against DePauw

Kenyon goes into week of practice focused and determined after barnburner in Indiana.



Haley Witschey '20 dominated the third set against DePauw University, as she accounted for five kills and also committed zero errors. | COURTESY OF KENYON ATHLETICS

JACKSON WALD
STAFF WRITER

Following a thrilling 3-2 victory against Ohio Wesleyan University, the Ladies volleyball team looked to build momentum against the DePauw Tigers this past Saturday. However, in a hard-fought match, the Ladies ended up falling in four sets, 21-25, 20-25, 25-21, 16-25. This was the first loss for the Ladies in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) division, where they now sit at 3-1, boasting an overall record of 13-7.

The first set was a back-and-forth contest, as the score was tied 17-17 nearing

the end. The Tigers were able to mount a 5-0 run and win the set. While Kenyon had fewer errors than DePauw had in the first set (5-6), the Tigers were able to tally more kills (16-11).

The Ladies dropped the second set, and even though they were able to tie the set on various occasions, they could not break through in the end. The Ladies were still able to get more kills than the Tigers by a score of 14-12.

The third set was when the Ladies were able to come out on top. Led by Haley Witschey '20, who scored five kills while committing zero errors, the Ladies won the set 25-21. Del-

aney Swanson '19 and Elyse Davidson '21 also contributed three kills. The success in this set for the Ladies was largely due to their hitting percentage of .222 (their highest on the day), and they held the Tigers to a .081 hitting percentage (the Tigers' lowest on the day). "I think we surprised DePauw with our grit, and relentlessness is a theme we work on in every single practice," Ellie Luciani '22 said.

“I definitely think that as a team, we fought hard against DePauw.”

Ellie Luciani '22

In the fourth set, the Ladies were not able to stop the Tigers, who posted their highest kill amount (18), lowest error count (4), and the highest hitting percentage of the match (.368).

The Ladies posted a .160 overall hitting percentage, with Witschey leading the team in kills with 14. Katie Howard '22 led the team in digs with 15, while Meghan Cason '21 led the Ladies with 31 assists.

"I definitely think that as a team, we fought hard against

DePauw. We played a tight match, and some things didn't go our way, but it was a great opportunity to get better for the NCAC tournament," Luciani said. "Going forward, we're looking to just tighten up details and execution, because it's the little things that matter in this competitive conference. I think we're really looking forward to play hard this week against tough teams."

The Ladies' next match is against the College of Wooster on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. They then host a tri-match against Hiram College and Mount Vernon Nazarene University on Saturday, Oct. 21.

Lords soccer builds on stellar season, Ladies destroy Hiram

Lords

JOE WINT
STAFF WRITER

Over the past 10 days, Kenyon men's soccer continued their season with an outstanding run of games. The Lords extended their win streak to four, putting



David Anderson '19 dribbles by OWU defender. | FRANCIS BYRNE

their overall record at 10-1-1 as they look toward the playoffs with confidence.

On Oct. 6, they began by demolishing the Wabash College team on the road in Crawfordsville, Ind. by a margin of 4-0. Sebastian Gaese '22 and Sam Carson '22 led a second-half charge, with a

goal and assist apiece. Three days later, the team kept their form after overcoming a slow first half at home against College of Wooster and getting two goals from striker Philippe Stengel '20.

The Lords' ensuing game against Hiram was demoralizing for the Terriers. Kenyon finished with 30 shots on the day, while the Terriers mustered just one off-target shot. Drew Parker '22 got on the scoresheet for the first time in his collegiate career, finishing with four shots as a substitute. The Lords stand at 5-0-1 in NCAC play this season, and they are now ranked 16th in the country. The win also kept Kenyon's unbeaten conference streak alive.

"I think we have the ability to play for 90 minutes at a high level, which would be too much for most teams," Head Men's Soccer Coach Chris Brown said. "When our lads are focused and play with intensity and urgency, we are a handful for any team."

Yesterday, the Lords took on NCAC-rival Ohio Wesleyan University. It was a closely contested game that ended in a 1-1 draw even after extra time. Stengel once again found the back of the net with his head after a rebound, which put the Lords up 1-0. However, just 15 minutes later, the Battling Bishops

were able to score off a free kick to even the game at one. That ended the scoring for the game even though the Lords outshot the Battling Bishops 29-12.

On Saturday, the Lords will travel to Greencastle, Ind. to take on DePauw University at noon.

Ladies

JORDY FEE-PLATT
STAFF WRITER

The Ladies soccer team had a rough beginning to the week after falling to Thomas More College and The College of Wooster in close games, but ended on a positive note against Hiram College after a 4-1 win.

Fallon Raviol '20 stood out for the Ladies, earning a hat trick in the second half of the game against the Terriers. The Ladies ended the season high in both single-game goals scored (four) and shots (28).

The game was extremely tight in the first half. With only seven minutes remaining, Hiram forward Hannah Ward took a shot near the right side of the 18. The ball deflected off the Ladies' keeper Jillian County '20, giving Hiram a 1-0 lead going into the second half.

"In the first half, we struggled with connecting with one another and finding a rhythm," Raviol said.

"We knew the first five minutes of the second half would set the tone for the rest of the game, so we changed our mentality and came out harder and stronger than we had in the first half".

The change in mentality was clearly effective: Fewer than three minutes into the second half, Kenyon found the back of the net. Caroline McNeer '21 played in a corner from the left side that went untouched through the box and found Raviol who volleyed the ball, lofting it across the cluttered box and into the upper left side of the net, tying the game at one apiece.

Seventeen minutes later Samantha Hayes '21 crossed the ball in from the left side and again found Raviol, who hit a one-time finish right past the diving Hiram keeper.

The Ladies continued their momentum as Raviol secured a hat-trick in the 81st minute, only the 11th in the Ladies' history.

In the 86th minute, Maddie Ladd '21 scored her first career goal, concluding the game in a 4-1 blowout.

The Ladies will look to build on this performance with a tough upcoming game against Depauw University on Oct. 20 in Greencastle, Ind.

Field Hockey gets pair of wins over fall break

CHRIS ERDMANN
STAFF WRITER

The Ladies field hockey team traveled to Indiana this past weekend to take on Earlham College and DePauw University. They entered the weekend ranked third in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) with a record of five wins and three losses in the conference with an overall record of six wins and five losses.

The Ladies came out victorious in both matches with scores of 1-0 in each. Susannah Deems '22 was exceptional in goal this weekend and was recognized as the NCAC Player of the Week after recording two shutout wins for her team.

“We needed these wins, and we earned them with a solid team effort”

Abbey Roswell '19

shot rebounded off the pads of the Earlham goalkeeper. The Ladies' defense shut down the Quakers for the rest of the match, securing their first win of the weekend.

Kenyon continued their strong play on the field against DePauw University. They did not have as quick of a start as they did in the previous game, but 12 minutes before halftime, Tara Shetty '21 scored for the Ladies with an assist from Gigi Guenther '21. The defense held their own as they shut down the Tigers' offense for the rest of the game.

"We needed these wins, and we earned them with a solid team effort," Abbey Roswell '19 said.

The Ladies field hockey team now has an overall record of 8-5 and is in second place in the NCAC behind Denison University. This weekend they take on Ohio Wesleyan University on Saturday at 11 a.m., and then Sunday will be Senior Day for the Ladies at noon when they host Wittenberg University.

Lords football falls in a nailbiter at Hiram

DAVID COSIMANO
STAFF WRITER

Following a much needed bye week, the Lords football team traveled to Delaware, Ohio to take on North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) opponent Ohio Wesleyan University. It was a tough game for the Lords, who struggled to find their rhythm offensively.

Before the end of the first quarter, the Lords found themselves down 28-0, but Kenyon was able to put together a nine-play, 75-yard drive that ended with a 28-yard touchdown pass to Ian Robertson '19. This would be quarterback Thomas Merkle's '20 sixth touchdown pass of the season, and the second time he has connected with Robertson. This was the only scoring drive of the game for the Lords as they continued to struggle against the Ohio Wesleyan defense. Robertson led the team in receiving; he was targeted 10 times for 142 yards.

The following weekend the Lords would be back on the road traveling for another in-conference matchup against Hiram College. Kenyon put forth a strong effort despite being down 14-9 at halftime. The team came out of the locker room in the third quarter with a sense of urgency, and with 6:21 left in the quarter Merkle found Robertson in the endzone once again.

The touchdown capped off an 11-play, 45-yard drive for the Lords, giving them their first lead of the game. Before the end of the quarter, the Lords scored again with a pass caught by Zach Filips '20. That finished a six-play, 58-yard drive that gave the Lords a 24-14 advantage going into the fourth quarter.

However, Hiram was not done yet. A little under five minutes into the final quarter they scored, bringing Hiram within three points. The next 11 minutes were an all-out battle, but with just 34 seconds left in the contest, Hiram scored. This put them up 28-24, ending the game in a win for the Terriers.

Offensively for the Lords, Merkle had another strong showing with 38-62 and 373 yards, while Robertson was the top receiver, making 19 catches for 192 yards and breaking the record for the number of catches made in a single game — a record which was previously held by Brian Hunca '17.

Defensively for the Lords, Sam Dickey '20 posted a game- and career-high 19 tackles. Xavier Chisholm Hensley '20 ended the game with two sacks, and Josh Jones '21 registered an interception and eight tackles.

This Saturday, the Lords return to McBride Field at 2 p.m., where they will take on Allegheny College in another NCAC matchup.

Scores		
Soccer (M)		
10/5	WABASH KENYON	0 4
10/9	KENYON WOOSTER	2 0
10/13	KENYON HIRAM	4 0
10/17	KENYON OHIO WESLEYAN	1 1
Soccer (W)		
10/6	KENYON THOMAS MORE	0 1
10/10	KENYON WOOSTER	1 3
10/13	KENYON HIRAM	4 1
10/16	OHIO WESLEYAN KENYON	2 0
Field Hockey		
10/6	OBERLIN KENYON	0 4
10/13	KENYON EARLHAM	0 1
10/14	KENYON DEPAUW	1 0
Volleyball		
10/5	KENYON OBERLIN	1 3
10/6	DENISON KENYON	3 1
10/13	KENYON DEPAUW	1 3
Football		
10/6	KENYON OHIO WESLEYAN	7 49
10/13	KENYON HIRAM	28 24